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IDEA-0311  
Copy 6 of 6

29 May 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Deputy Director (Plans)  
THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division *sub*  
SUBJECT : Request for Approval of Project IDEALIST Activity Program  
REFERENCE : "Activity Program", IDEA-0309, Dated 26 May 1961; Provision  
of Funds for IRAN and Conversion of One IDEALIST Aircraft

25X1A

1. Confirming our telephone conversation of 29 May, I am forwarding for your approval the attached EPD Activity Program, calling for the expenditure from FY 1961 funds of [ ] for the IRAN and conversion of one U-2A aircraft from J-57 to J-75 configuration.

2. As I indicated to you on the phone, funds in this amount have been carried in the EPD FY 1961 budget, and prior to his departure on leave on 25 May, the subject of this conversion was thoroughly discussed with Mr. Bissell, and his oral approval to proceed was obtained. In his absence it would be appreciated if you would sign in his stead.

25X1C

3. For your information this is the sixth U-2 aircraft to be so altered. At the moment we have three in inventory, one having been lost on 1 May 1960 [ ]

25X1C

[ ] As indicated by the brief note on the cover sheet to the Activity Program, this Division is studying the need for conversion of additional aircraft to the J-75 configuration and will make a recommendation to Deputy Director (Plans) as a separate piece of correspondence. There is a likelihood that we may recommend conversion of all remaining aircraft in the manner discussed with Mr. Bissell at the time approval of the instant Activity Program was solicited.

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4. Normally after approval Mr. Bissell hand carries programs of this magnitude to General Cabell and the Director. Since you may prefer to have us act as intermediaries in this matter during Mr. Bissell's absence, I should like to suggest that we can pick this up from you once you have been good enough to sign and carry the matter further with the General and Mr. Dulles if this is your wish.

SIGNED

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Assistant Chief  
DPD-DD/P

Attachment (IDEA-0304)

Distribution:

- 1 - DD/P, w/att
- 2 - ASST CH/DPD, w/o att
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DPD-DD/P:JACunningham, Jr./mg

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